

Bioterrorism

After the tragic events of 11 September in the USA, many different aspects of our lives have changed. In our speciality, the changes have been particularly noticeable, with bioterrorism, which was once a remote risk, now a real possibility. The microbiological threat has jumped from very restricted and specialized circles to the public arena, and subjects related to the diagnosis, epidemiology, prophylaxis and treatment of infectious diseases, even those which have been eradicated, have made the news.

Clinical Microbiology and Infection could not remain on the sidelines with a subject that concerns both the scientific community and public opinion in general, and has prepared this monographic compilation of reviews by reputed specialists in the different areas.

Our intention has been to cover the different lines usually taken by our journal with regard to the basic microbiological aspects of bioterrorism and the associated clinical considerations. Further-

more, we are particularly interested in making the reviews as practical as possible, without disregarding the documentation and updating theoretical aspects of each subject. We feel that we have reached our objective and we hope that this monographic issue will be of interest to our readers.

We would like to thank publicly the contributing authors for their exhaustive reviews, and all the personnel involved in the publication of the supplement.

Finally, *Clinical Microbiology and Infection*, together with the Society it represents and the collective of professionals in the field of clinical microbiology and infectious diseases, would like to express its desire that the bioterrorist threat does not become a reality and that people resolve their tensions and conflicts with dialogue and negotiation.

E. Bouza and R. Alonso

Corresponding author and reprint requests: R. Alonso,
Servicio de Microbiología, Hospital General Universitario
'Gregorio', C/Doctor Esquerdo, 46, 28007 Madrid, Spain
Tel: +34 1 5868453
Fax: +34 1 5044906
E-mail: ralonso@microb.net